

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2003

MESSAGE FROM JACK HAMMETT, K4VV, PRESIDENT OF PVRC

Congratulations to the energetic testers of PVRC for the continuing creativity and hard work to build our individual and team and club competitiveness. Many members are dedicated to achievement and continuing improvements.

Many of our members are relatively new to testing and need the coaching and example of others to build the skills. Recent discussions in several of our meetings focus on ideas for PVRC initiatives to enhance testing skills. There seem to be some good ideas to consider. Watch for more discussion on the reflector and in our meetings. I am one of those who needs work to be more competitive.

As a personal update, many of you know that Carol, my wife of 40 years, died in 2000. I had a medical challenge of my own in 2001, which ended well. I became engaged after 9/11 to Sharon Long, a wonderful Lady who is ham radio friendly and is happy to live in the country. We bought a new home in Loudoun County, west of Leesburg, VA with some land and room for antennas. Sharon and I married in May 2002 with N3OC, N3RR, W3YOZ, and W8JVP participating in the festivities. My job at SAIC and finishing the house have detracted from building the new station. With some good advice, I have a plan working and some materials assembled for two towers and a feedline system to get started this spring and summer.

TREASURERS REPORT by Dave Baugher, WR3L

PVRC would like to thank the following for the donations and please keep them coming: W3YD, WA8WV, W4RW, W8BOZ, K3RON, K3ZO, K4ZA, W4YZT, AK3Z, W6ANN, W7YS, and W3RR.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT NOW IN BOTH HOUSE
AND
SENATE

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 now has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo introduced the Senate version of the bill, S 537, on March 6. Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest House version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. HR 713 and S 537 are aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The legislation would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere.

The ARRL encourages members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their senators and representatives to urge their cosponsorship. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>. Those writing their lawmakers are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <[\[email protected\]](#)>.

The text of HR 713 and S 537 is available (or will soon be available) via the Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/>>. (Material for this article came from ARRL LETTER.)

ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION PATHS ON 10 METERS

During the ARRL 'phone contest, Fred Matos, W3ICM (operating at K3DI) observed that on both Saturday and Sunday, the strengths of the Europeans on 10 meters peaked with the 7 element Yagi pointed at around 110 degrees instead of 40 degrees. Fred discussed this with Dr. William Kissick at NTIA/ITS at Boulder. He messaged Fred with the following.

"This is unusual; but possible. It seems that you have the main beam aimed about 70 degrees or so off the great circle path towards the equator. That is a lot, but there are two phenomena that could conspire to make this happen.

1. If the propagation path through the ionosphere is complicated (and at times it is), for example: xmtr to the upper F-region, then refracted down to the upper edge of the E-region (assuming some strong sporadic E development usually only after a solar flare and during daytime), then back up to the lower F-region..., then down to the E-region, maybe right through it this time. The point is one can get a "secondary" reflection within the ionosphere upward. And, as you can imagine, there will be some

lateral structure of electron density thus one can get an "off-the-great-circle" reflection here. This stuff is more likely at the higher frequencies like you were using.

2. If the above is happening, there are some other effects that may occur. Maybe the phase front (electric field vector or magnetic field vector) of the wave is not perpendicular to the direction of propagation. This can only occur if two components of the same wave are reaching you at "almost" the same time. The composite is not a plane wave therefore the gain pattern of the antenna is not the same as for a plane wave (it could develop a notch in the middle of the main beam and max gain would off boresight).

This phenomena would probably only occur if there is some rather complicated reflection mechanisms as described above and the ordinary and extraordinary (circularly polarized but opposite) components of the original (linearly polarized) signal arrive at the receiver at "almost" the same time. Note that these are likely coming from near the great circle path, but the antenna is behaving funny due to the non-perpendicular phase front.

Thanks for describing your experience to me. This is very interesting and I feel like I am stretching things a bit with the above explanation but these things can happen. Assuming your gain pattern is not distorted by other conductors near the antenna, which would always be there, it must be that enigmatic ionosphere. Finally, you report that the Europeans were asking about antenna pointing. That seems to imply that this was really the ionosphere doing something. I think it is quite rare. Please tell me if it happens again.

As a footnote, about two weeks ago I turned on the old HF receiver and was amazed. It has been many decades since I heard such amazing propagation. Signals from all directions were very stable and very strong...from 80 meters all the way up to 20 meters. And, for whatever reason, the 'spherics were very quiet. I think that was Feb. 15."

AREA HAMFESTS from contributions sent by Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

The York springfest will in York, PA at 8am on April 13, 2003 at the Adam \$-H Center off Route 30. Indoor (\$5) and outdoor (\$3) tailgating. VE testing. Food service. Talk in 147.33 + 600.

Info at [\[email protected\]](#)

A few of other hamfests:

5/3 Wrightstown PA

6/1 Manassas VA (ARRL convention)

6/14 Bloomsburg PA

7/4 Harrisburg PA

7/13 Kimberton PA

7/19 Jonestown PA

9/6-7 W. Friendship MD

JANUARY CENTRAL REGION MEETING MINUTES by Brian McGinness, N3OC

The January Central Region meeting was held on 1/13/03 in Temple Hills at the Church of the Nativity, after dinner at Topolino's.

The following were in attendance: WR3L, K3ZO, KE3Q, K3PN, K3IRV, W4EE (guest), W3YOZ and N3OC.

K4VV was on travel, so N3OC gave the vice-president's report. Jack, K4VV has taken over as president. We are working on a number of issues as we try to make PVRC more value-added, to the outlying regions in particular. Another high priority is re-vamping the central region.

We need input and suggestions for future meeting programs, topics, speakers and activities for the central region meetings. This is a difficult task to keep up with over the years, and we could use some fresh ideas and suggestions.

A discussion was then held about the future format and even location of the central meetings. It was noted most other regions meet where they have dinner, and it was felt we kind of spin our wheels unnecessarily having half the meeting over dinner, then changing locations and continuing the discussion at the official meeting place. There was some positive feeling among the MD group that we should look into finding a place where we could have dinner that had an area where we could stay and have the meeting. More input on the meeting format will be obtained from the Northern Virginia group next month. There are a couple possible places in Vienna that would fit the bill.

As for topics and speakers, it was noted that we will be having

the IH9P group in to speak on their way travelling to Dayton, sometime in May. Other ideas were thrown around, including a presentation on the MK-V, new antennas, the Step IR yagi (hi), characteristics of successful contest stations, a writelog demo, a TR demo, and asking KC3VO to speak on amplifiers and/or mobile rigs. Anyone interested in taking on one of those topics?

WR3L gave a brief treasurer's report. As always the donations are appreciated in lieu of dues.

Jim, W4EE was voted into membership. He is also VK8TX.

There was no new or old business.

The presentation for the evening was a video about the construction of the W7RM station. Although several years old, it was still a very interesting design, using tower bases as guy anchor points for other towers, and AB-105 tower from the same source as some of the W3LPL towers which were tractor-trailed to the west coast. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

FEBRUARY CENTRAL MEETING MINUTES by Brian McGinness, N3OC

The meeting was called to order on Monday Feb. 10, 2003 7:30PM at the Vienna elementary school by PVRC President K4VV. Several members were at dinner beforehand at the Outback steakhouse in Vienna.

The following members were in attendance: N3OC, K3PN, K3ZO, W4RW, K3TW, N3JT, K4ZA, K3IRV, N4MO, AA4KD and K4VV. Guests were Danny Jamison AH6FX/4, and Bob Finger W9GE.

K4VV gave the president's report. A conference call was held between K4VV (President), N3OC (VP-North) and K2AV (VP-South) to discuss leadership issues, including revamping the central region, the club circle, how to encourage growth in our membership and competitiveness, and how to assist our members develop their contesting skills. A number of ideas were discussed that we will explore in the coming months.

There was one application for membership. Bob Finger, W9GE has bought 4.5 acres on the eastern shore (Talbot County) and has attended his second meeting. He has been active in the past as a dxer, is interested in contesting, and will be moving and

retiring this summer. He has a 30x60 barn slated to become the ham shack. Bob was then voted into membership. Welcome to PVRC!

There was no old business.

There was no new business, although the discussion on revamping the central region filled the gap. Most of the Virginia central region group seemed in favor of finding a location to meet where we could eat dinner and have the meeting in the same place.

We inquired as to what topics, activities or speakers the group would be interested in. Several topics were suggested, such as a presentation on emergency preparedness, KC3VO on generators, amplifiers and all things power, field trips to broadcast facilities, a contest cookbook operating manual, mentoring of new members, DXpedition tapes or DVDs, and more internal PVRC awards that would cater to the smaller members, and an occasional pileup simulator competition. That is quite a list, and gives us some good places to start.

The remaining time was used for war stories. K4VV is still assembling components to build his new station, on his Catoctin ridgeline site in Loudoun County, VA.

K3PN reports that he just bought a FT1000MP to replace his Kenwood. He also reports KL7RA is retiring and was flown out here to celebrate this achievement with K3PN. KL7RA is moving south to Anchorage and will be transplanting his towers this summer.

K3ZO operated the complete 160m contest since he has put up a EWE to receive with, and conditions were very good. Fred usually operates the 160 contest part time, so he reports his best 160m score ever as a result of the receive antenna and the good conditions.

Floyd W4RW has not been on much, due to the antenna problems at W4RX's mountain QTH.

K3JT spoke in favor of self-supporting towers. He says they are much less noticeable to the neighbors.

K4ZA is still living out of his suitcase. Don operated the 10m contest as a single-op from W3LPL.

K3IRV will be going to K3DI's to get familiar withg his station, and plans to operate there at times in the future.

N4MO reports his doctor prevented his usual trip to TI7 for the contest, right before he was supposed to leave. Ron operated the 10m contest from Charlottesville instead.

AA4KD, Clair reported his station has been disassembled, but he is setting it back up again and plans to get back on the air from time to time.

N3OC reported that he has obtained all 200' of Rohn 45G he needs, has permits in hand for two 100' towers, and hopes to begin putting them up when the weather breaks. He noted that Montgomery County (MD) appears to be extremely ham radio tower friendly. It is important to use the words NON-COMMERCIAL when discussing any ham radio tower installation with zoning and permit authorities when doing this. As a result, the county lowered his permit fees to \$55, the same as an outdoor shed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

CVCC MEETING MINUTES 2/11/03,
by John Youell, W4TNX

Sorry I missed this meeting, especially since based on the feedback I have received the program was excellent, (see below). I had the age-old problem of my work getting in the way of my hobby! Anyone have a solution for this problem (buy lottery tickets?)?

I understand there were about a dozen present at Shoney's for the pre-meeting supper and that a few others joined at the meeting site. Following are the highlights that I have gleaned:

Those in attendance (from aging memories) included:
WK4Y, KG4SNK, K4JA, W3BP, K4WMA, W4MYA, AD4YM, W4TJ, W4DR, NK4H,
WB4QQY, K4WI, K8YFM, KC4AUG, KC4AUF, KS4RX, N4DWK, W4NM, N4DEN.

The program for the evening was "Radio Astronomy" by Bill (W4TJ) and Jim (AD4YM). Bill described in detail the receiving amplifiers which he manufactures for radio telescopes. Jim gave

an overview of the history of radio astronomy up to the present. He also described the antennas used for the space probes. I understand that the stuff that is being done in the field of radio astronomy is really awesome!

Ed (KG4SNK) has attended three meetings and was elected to membership. Welcome aboard, Ed.

The May meeting will be a club picnic, location to be determined. (Hopefully, we can get AC's (W4HJ) brother's river place again).

Paul (K4JA) is hosting an open house July 26. If you haven't seen a super station, this is it! Put the date on your calendar!

Bruce (W3BP) won both of the club plaques for 2002. The plaques were for the most new band entities (sponsored by K4WMA and Bruce had an incredible 1006!) and for the highest percentage of needed band entities needed (sponsored by W4MYA, Bruce with 30.9%). Way to go Bruce!

W4MYA is gearing up for the ARRL CW contest this weekend.

Elections will take place next month, with the candidates being Roy (WK4Y) for president, Tom (N4ZJ) for treasurer and A.J. (W4NM) for Treasurer. Thanks to Bob (NK4H) for heading up the nominating committee. The terms of office will begin at the close of the April meeting.

The CVCC will be sponsoring the Va. QSO Party Club plaque again this year.

MINUTES OF THE CVCC CHAPTER MEETING, MARCH 3, 2003, by Bob Eshleman, W4DR, Chapter President

A dozen guys and gals met for dinner at Nick's Roman Terrace prior to the meeting. Those in attendance were: W4DR, N4CFL, W4PFM, W4HJ, KE4PRL, W4MYA, KB4NXR, KS4RX, K4WMA, N4DWK, KC4AUF, AC4OB, NK4H, N4DEN, WK4Y, N4KFT, K4PUF and Steve.

Our meeting was held on this date rather than the second Tuesday to take advantage of the opportunity to have Paul Wyse, W4PFM as a guest speaker. Paul came up from Waxhaw, NC to operate in the DX contest at W4MYA's. Prior to Paul's presentation, W4DR

presented him with a Plaque according him honorary membership in the CVCC and acknowledging his 40 plus years of DX and Contest activity from OA, CP, CE, KP4, 5Z4, 5X4, T5 and ET3. Paul took us on an African Safari covering his operations from East Africa.

Bob reminded the operators at W4MYA's in last years WPX phone contest that they could get a duplicate plaque for \$50 as we were the USA MM winners of that event.

The next events upcoming are the VA QSO Party (we will use W4ML) and WPX phone. Bob is looking for operators for both of these events both from the local area and out of town as well. Contact W4MYA if you would like to participate. Next month we will install new officers. The program will be on Echolink.

NORTHWEST MEETING NOTES FOR JAN 2003 by Ed Steeble, K3IXD, chairman

The NW region met at City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 21 January 2003. In attendance were: K3IXD, W8ZA, N3HBX, N3UM, K2PLF, W3KHZ, K4VV, W3NRS, N3OK, NE3H, K3WC, W2YE, W3LL, N3VOP, W3IDT, W3ZZ, K3MM, K3TM, and W2CDO.

The business part of the meeting:

- 1) K3IXD reported that Dan, K3SKE has had family problems thus the delay in processing the PVRC Store orders. Dan said he hasn't cashed the checks.
- 2) W3ZZ reported that ARRL is talking about increasing the number of club competition contests.
- 3) K4VV, PVRC President, reported that:
 - a) he and N3OC, PVRC Vice President, have received emails about the future directions for the club;
 - b) he reported that the 5M award program has had a positive impact;
 - c) they recognize that the Newsletter could be in color, etc., but the editor isn't equipped to make changes; and
 - d) the bylaws don't reflect the current composition of the club, i.e., the regions. Jack requested those with comments send him an email ([\[email protected\]](#)).
- 4) There was a discussion about PVRC QSL cards, namely whether or not Tony, LZ1JZ did them in color or just B&W. The next day, Bud, W3LL, forwarded an email that he had just received from

LZ1JZ. The QSL cards are in color. If you want to see W3LL's card (a jpg file) send him a request ([\[email protected\]](#)). Tony, LZ1JZ, web site is (<http://kulinar.GBG.bg>) and his email address is ([\[email protected\]](#)).

Around the table:

Ed, K3IXD, announced he retired on 3 January. The W3SO station's antennas were destroyed in the ice and wind that has plagued the mountain top site since Thanksgiving. Ed operated the VHF contest from home, using his ICOM 706MkiiiG, no antenna tuner, the HF beam for a 6m antenna, and the 160m inv L on 2m and 432MHz.

Bob, W8ZA, said due to health problems he will not have his multi-op station on for some up coming contests. He operated in the ARRL VHF contest.

John, N3HBX, announced that he made DXCC Honor Roll. We congratulated him. He worked the ARRL VHF contest. His 80m beam is still not working.

Ben, N3UM, operated both SS CW and SSB contests, as well as the ARRL VHF contest.

Marty, K2PLF, operated the ARRL VHF contest from home since the W3SO LM station wasn't on for the contest. He said N4RV is looking for operators for the ARRL CW and SSB contests.

Art, W3KHZ, operated the ARRL VHF contest.

Jack, K4VV, is planning the towers and antennas at his new QTH.

Norm, W3NRS, operated the ARRL VHF contest. He had audio problems on Sunday which turned out to be a "cockpit problem". Someone said that he should be in the multi-two category (you and Murphy).

Scott, N3OK, plans to put up a 160m antenna for CQ 160 contest.

Peter, W2CDO, ? square is down due to a neighbor cutting a tree limb. He will have it back up soon and is planning an 80m antenna. He is planning on SO Low 20m in ARRL DX CW.

Ty, K3MM, won his BMW club's series races. He has bought an '82 Camaro. Regarding radio activities he was on a PVRC NAQP team.

Roger, K3TM, thanked PVRC for the SS participation pin. His novice card (circa 1960) was for sale on ebay.

Joe, NE3H, said he retired but is back as a consultant several days a week. His amp is fixed and he was in three contests.

Dusty, K3WC, told us K3SX, Sid, wants to buy back the 6m rig he had borrowed from Dusty. When using his 80m delta loop, his CW signal is picked up by his sub woofer. He sent for his VP6DI cards but was told, "Not in log". It turned out he worked them under his old call but sent them the QSL card with his new call on it.

Mike, N3VOP, assembled the Carroll County Club, K3PZN, multi-op effort in the ARRL VHF contest.

Dick, W2YE, operated the ARRL VHF contest. He bought an SB200 which was converted for 6m. He has 5 el at 70 feet. He took the low band wires down since a "tree guy" was coming to remove some dead trees that needed to come down before they fell down or were blown down by the winds. Dick mentioned that ICOM, in their repair notice, recommended Sultrantronics Relay Saver. The website (www.Sultrantronics.com) provides info. He bought two - one for the SB200 and one for his 91b.

Bud, W3LL, operated the NAQP and also the ARRL VHF contest with a low band dipole on 6m.

Bob, W3IDT, is teaching on Wednesday nights this semester so he hopes to make many NW meetings now. He made a clean sweep in SS.

Gene, W3ZZ, operated the ARRL VHF contest and was in the CQWW CW and SSB contests.

Discussions:

Mike, N3VOP, started a discussion saying he Joined PVRC to add to the clubs scores, to learn to be a better operator, and to improve his station.

That sparked these comments: work parties can be arranged to

assist with tower and antenna installations, pick the right hours to operate to maximize your score, keep sitting in the chair, set a goal of improving upon last years score, know when to run and when to S&P, train your ears, use software packages for practice, and know (learn) the bands.

There were divided opinions on the benefit of Packet. (I think it is a big help for the part time operator-K3IXD).

Many, small, multi-op stations can greatly increase the clubs overall score. For SS, personal contact to all PVRC members can get a good turn out thus improving PVRC overall score.

Bob, W3IDT, said that George Washington University is no longer willing to host an amateur radio station. He said that it is impossible now for non VOA employees to get access to the K3VOA site. The Smithsonian Station is for demonstration only, not for contesting. He is looking for leads where a multi-op effort can be activated from DC. ARRL has made DC a multiplier. CQ had had DC as a multiplier. Anyone that knows of a potential place and can give Bob a name of someone to contact should talk with Bob and he will pursue it.

The next meeting is February 18th, and it is at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD. (301) 682-6066. It is in a small shopping center.

From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind Mountain View Diner; you can't see it from the street.

The NW Region meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. Most arrive about 6PM for dinner and informal discussions; the meeting begins at 7:15 PM.

RAPPAHANNOCK CHAPTER MEETING, 1 February 2003 by Mike Sims, K4GMH

The meeting was held at Steve's, NR4M, ham shack/garage - better know throughout the Rappahannock Chapter as the Goat Farm. After introductions, each was asked to tell what was happening with station improvements, operating experiences or other

"interesting" information.

Starting off was Steve, NR4M, who is getting ready for some spring planting of six AB105 towers; three @ 190', one @ 160', and two @ 120'. The 39 guy anchors are already in the ground and ready to sprout guy wires. Tower foundation holes are dug for the bases, but the recent wet weather has turned them into frog ponds.

Mike, K4GMH, reported his new three element 80 meter vertical dipole array is working as expected. He is learning how to operate (read compete) against the guys in New England on 80 meters to Europe. Tough to beat location.

Joe, WA4JUK, got his Ten Tec amp. fixed on the second try. Since then his station has been performing the way it should. Joe did have a problem with Writelog and had to turn in a written log for the 10 Meter Contest. This prompted a lengthy discussion of merits and problems with Writelog.

Frank, K4EC, is recovering from back surgery. Although under doctor's orders to take it easy, he was able to make use of his 40 meter dipole with its long feed line to get in the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. Running 500 Watts to this arrangement he said he was able to work about anything he heard along with a couple of GFCI circuits in the house.

Larry, K7SV, is getting started running SO2R low power using a couple of tribanders. His best result has been running on the higher band, and search and pounce on the lower band. Keeping focused on SO2R operation is something he is starting to understand. If he doesn't, he finds he is concentrating on one radio and forgetting the other radio.

Paul, K4JA, is making improvements to his 80 and 160 meter antennas. Paul's has been collecting the parts for turning the 80 meter four square into a "nine round". The nine round he is building is based on the design in ON4UN's latest edition of Low Band DXing book.

Ken, K4ZW, said his station has been working fine and looking forward to the upcoming contests.

Michael, N4KZO, has just moved into the area. He is getting ready to put up a stealth antenna for 40 meters to get on from

his apartment.

John, W4IM, is just getting started in contesting. He and Michael, N4KZO, were given a tour of the holes in the ground at NR4M to get a feel for the eventual tower/antenna arrangement.

Jim, KB9CR, is having fun getting back into DX chasing. He has started to get his station organized for a move to Arkansas in about a year following his retirement.

Gary, W0QDP, hasn't lately made any improvements to his station. However, he's kept busy helping Steve, NR4M, getting the Goat Farm ready for the spring tower planting.

Steve, K4EU, is rebuilding his quad that was destroyed in a recent Culpeper area ice storm. The new one will be bigger, stronger, better, etc. and may be able to withstand the next ice storm. Until the new and improved quad is tempting Mother Nature on top of the tower, he is using a 300 foot long Windom. He had fun working the CQ WW CW contest from K4JA and the 10 Meter Contest from K4ZW.

Bruce, W3BP, has been getting on the bands every day working whatever DX he can hear. The station has been working well and an improved 160 meter antenna is the next project. Bruce has been helping Paul, K4JA, get stuff ready for the "nine round".

Bill, K1SE, is still in the townhouse. He hasn't been able to figure out how to rotate it to get the attic antenna broad side to the DX. Fortunately he has been enjoying contesting as part of the team at K4JA and at K4ZW. He's looking forward to the ARRL DX CW Contest from K4JA.

After the round of info., copious amounts of hamburgers and hot dogs were consumed along with one on one discussions on the merits of various operating techniques, antennas, amplifiers, etc.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PVRC FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES
by David R. Jones, Jr, N4JED

This marks our second dinner meeting in a row to follow a significant snow and we diehards braved the white cold and gathered at the Roanoker Restaurant Friday the 7th of February

for the regular meeting of the Southwestern Virginia Chapter PVRC. Good food, camaraderie, and company were enjoyed by all.

Present for the meeting were Chapter coordinator Mike-N4GU, Bill-WA4BKW, Buddy-W4YE and his wife Sarah, and David-N4JED and his son Robert. Several members sent their regrets due to weather and illness and we wish them all better.

Our before-dinner conversations ranged in topics from QCWA and OTC membership to war surplus receivers and balloon hoisted wire antennas. Pre-license experiments were claimed by several but no elaboration followed. N4JED was the only member present still short a few years to qualify for QCWA.

Our antenna specialist N4GU described the problems he was having trying to tune his new 80 meter dipole. Mike likes all his antennas to work without a tuner and this one just has not been behaving.

WA4BKW pointed out his 80 meter dipole up thirteen feet at the high point was repeatedly working well into Hawaii. He is tempted to leave it as is till completing WAS. Many suggestions were given N4GU including lowering the antenna like Bill. Hopefully he will have it cleared up for the next test. Which led to our discussion of matching networks and the best tuners. Johnson KW Matchbox won hands down.

Contest scores were reviewed. N4JED worked the VHF test and he and W4YE had at the 160 test. W4YE came in with several hundred contacts and N4JED 61 on an antenna lower than Bills 80 dipole. Buddy kept David from claiming the top position in the SWVA Chapter 5-mil contest for the time being. Hopefully we will hear more scores at the next meeting and our traveling members will be home for the upcoming contests. The official meeting was continued until Sunday and the after meeting meeting went on for another hour with much fun had by all.

Sunday meeting picked up KF4YLM-Josh, W4JAM-John and W0MAN-Susanne along with W4DF-Fred at the Richmond Frostfest. John & Susanne picked up some anchors and connectors, Fred a Windom and a tuner (before Mike could talk to him). Everyone was encouraged to get on the next upcoming series of contests and turn in scores. Next meeting will be Friday, March 7th, at the Roanoker Restaurant at 6pm. April's meeting will be in

Lynchburg.

NC CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 6, 2003 by Jim Price, WW4M

The March 6, 2003 meeting was held at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, Cary, NC. Members in attendance: Brian K3KO, Bert N4CW, Tom N4TL, Alan KO7X, Jeff NX9T, Gary W2CS, Chuck K4NYS, Bob K4HA, Paul K4JA, David W4IDX, Nate N4YDU, Bill K4CIA, Wes K4WES, Jim WW4M, and guest Matt KC1XX. Regrets: Guy K2AV, caring for his father in Kentucky, and Jim K4QPL and Pete AD4L, recovering from the flu.

Official Business:

We will again have 2 tables at RARSfest, which will be held April 13 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Anyone signing the log or attending the 11am meeting will receive credit for attending a PVRC meeting. There will be room for members to sell gear. If you anticipate having a lot of gear, please contact WW4M ASAP so we can reserve an extra table.

Also, N1ND and K4CIA will be checking cards at RARSfest. He and Dan will be having dinner the night before at Mama Dip's in Chapel Hill, and anyone interested is invited to join them.

Member News:

K4NYS made his first real attempt at the ARRL DX contest last week. He said he didn't have a lot of time for it but had a lot of fun.

K4HA has been busy redecorating and reports he hasn't done much contesting this season.

K4JA says he has been "playing in some contest." (group chuckles)

W4IDX says one of the recent ice storms took out his 80m wire so he's been putting more effort into 40m CW and phone.

N4YDU said he hasn't done a full effort since CQWW CW, but he was happy that his wires held up in the ice.

K4CIA had fun putting in 12 hours in the ARRL DX CW contest.

K3KO reported that he operated in every contest this year, If it

weren't for his voice keyer he would never operate phone (besides, his 80m dipole doesn't operate well on 75m).

K4WES is looking forward to working in WPX SSB.

N4CW says his MP is still at the doctor, so he's been using a 706 and says the outboard filter really helps and the preamp helps to pull out weak signals on the low bands. He has no plans for WPX phone and in the meantime will dabble in various contests.

KC1XX is down in the area on business. He operates mostly multi-multi and always tries to beat the hell out of W3LPL, yet they are good friends. During ARRL DX he found it hard to work VR2 from W1 while he heard 8s and 4s having no problem.

Matt wondered whether the record of no multi-multi having ever won 4 in a row is for a calendar year or contest season. He says each year he flies in some JAs and european ops to help fill in the chairs at his station. K4JA says he also flies in guest ops and finds it difficult to fill chairs using part-timers.

N4TL has been plugging away and says he's happy when he can contribute 100 Qs per contest.

KO7X will be moving to Wyoming in three months. He has had a good time working DX contests from KI7WX's station in north Raleigh.

NX9T tries to get in as many contests as possible and have fun -- he reported that 10 was golden last Sunday, although the signals were down in the mud.

W2CS has been doing most of his operating from N4AF down in Chocowinity. He got on for ARRL DX CW on the first day one but had to go home on day 2 to help deal with the ice. Gary said 10m seemed to be open around the world, and 20m was unbelievable, being open at 3:45 am). He didn't get on for the phone portion because he's been fighting pneumonia.

WW4M had fun in the recent NC QSO Party, operating rover with N3NPQ and activating Carteret and Pamlico counties.

After going around the table, K4JA answered questions from the group.

W2CS asked what Paul thought of Writelog. Paul is sold on it. He found it is now very stable, and the only time he brought it to its knees was when 3 ops tried to simultaneously send gab messages. He's never had a problem with recovering files, although it does take some amount of setup to make it that stable and he would be happy to help out by providing ini files. He found that when Writelog prompts you to save every X Qs it's because you haven't saved a config for that contest, and after you do so it should autosave. He has always liked CT but found problems were increasing as computer technology progressed.

Paul says everything in his shack is networked via ethernet, and he telnets into the cluster over a 56k dialup connection. He reports W4ML and K4MD offer good clusters and are within tenths of a second of one another. He finds speed to be very important, so you can get a jump on a pileup when new stations are spotted.

K4JA prefers Windows 2000 and uses identical installations on identical hardware. Having consistent hardware and software helps with networking (all of which he does himself to ensure consistency).

He noted that installation of 80m and 160m dipoles really killed his 40m station. Another problem he encountered was with home-built rotator indicators, which caused him to place 2nd in CQWW.

He finds that maintenance on his multi-2 station keeps him busy full-time. He has plans for a new 80m antenna for the coming season. He purchased 50,000-feet of wire on a 400-lb spool, which he'll put on a trailer with a caddy. For convenience he has heavy freight deliveries shipped to his plumber.

He's also working on a fully automated #2 station using Top Ten gear because of their superior quality.

Nothing ever stays the same for very long at his station, and guest ops are always wondering what changes they'll find when they arrive. He'll be getting an Acom SO2R box soon. KC1XX observed that Acom's Q/C is pretty bad, but once you get a good unit it works great - let's you use the same amp for 2 rigs.

KC1XX lamented the posting of busted spots that are worked and logged by many people without corrections. He wondered if those

stations would get credit because the same busted call appeared in so many other logs. He said he works hard to have the best UBN possible.

This prompted K3KO to wonder what kind of post-contest log massaging Paul and Matt might do, and it was noted that there are reports of some stations that record all of their Qs and later go back to correct their logs. The answer was that they do no massaging at all, and that others set a bad precedent. Matt said even when he realizes during a contest that he probably busted a call on an earlier Q he won't go back and change it. He also found it stupid that some stations would post their entire logs to the internet for other stations to review.

What about steps taken to ensure compliance with rules regarding multiple transmitters on the same band simultaneously? KC1XX thought that probably only the top 5 stations have interlocks for SO2R.

Everyone agreed that the answer to stations that CQ without giving a callsign is to keep working them again until they get tired of the dupes and start giving their call more often. If they won't give a call -- work 'em.

There was then discussion about suspicions that a 9-land station was running 8 kw out of amps that had face-plates proclaiming much lower output.

The next meeting will be Thursday April 3, same time and place as usual (followed by the special RARSfest meeting on April 13).

SHORT NOTES by the editor

The Foundation for Amateur Radio will award 58 scholarships for the 03/04 academic year. For an application and information, send a letter or QSL card to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20783.

Paul Hellenbert, K4JA, has informed us that his open house in Callao, VA will be July 26, 2003. We'll have detailed information and direction in a future issue.

Tom Viselli, K2UOP, found a convenient switch at Radio Shack for use with his beverages. It's an A-B-C 75 ohm TV push button

switch with F-type connectors which can be adapted to BNC with adaptors also sold at the Shack. It is enclosed and come with two long screws for mounting under a shelf.

Ed Steeble, K3IXD lets us know that the February Northwest meeting was cancelled because of snow.

Bill Leavitt, W3AZ said the Over-the-hill lunch group cancelled their February meeting due to weather. Also, we have decided to discontinue the Over the Hill Luncheons at Topolinos in Camp Springs MD and alternate between the Marriott in VA at Route 50 and the Beltway and the Holiday Inn in MD at Route 1 and the Beltway. We have been meeting at these 2 locations. The next meeting will be at the College Park Holiday Inn at Route 1 and the Beltway at 12:00 Noon on March 26.

The Raleigh chapter will host a table at the Sunday, April 13 RARSfest. Club members can sign in at the PVRC/NC table and receive credit for attending a meeting. There will be an informal meeting at the table at 11am.

Please notice that the deadline date and Email submittal address is given in the heading for each contest listed below. A Cabrillo file sent as an attachment is preferred and may be required.

S C O R E S by Bob Dannels, W2GG

Please send corrections & additions to [\[email protected\]](#)
= missing data

ARRL Jan VHF FINAL 05-Mar-03
Call Band Pwr QSO Mult Score
Single Operator
K1RZ 9 H 800 173 240,470
K3DNE 7 H 604 134 135,072
N3HBX # H 552 117 83,772
K2UOP 7 H 240 86 35,958
W3ZZ 4 H 273 61 22,570
K3ZO 2 H 216 48 10,368
K2PLF 3 L 181 46 8,924
N3UM 2 L 211 35 7,385
W3IKE 4 L 138 47 6,486
K4FTO 4 L 147 29 5,597

N8II 1 L 112 35 3,920
W4XP 5 L 129 24 3,528
N3AM 3 L 89 28 2,688
K3DSP 2 L 80 32 2,624
N3II 1 L 124 18 2,232
K3DI 3 L 92 21 1,974
N4MM # L 75 26 1,950
N3VOP 4 L 87 17 1,904
W2YE 1 L 80 23 1,840
W6AXX 1 L 114 16 1,824
K3IXD 3 L 83 15 1,395
W3ARS 3 L 71 16 1,184
W3CB 2 L 51 11 561
W3KHZ 2 L 43 12 516
K3KO # L ## ## 308
W3LL 1 L 30 6 180
N3FNE 1 L 12 5 60
N4JED 1 L 6 2 12

Rover

W3IY/ 8 # 134 48 12,192

Multi-Op

W4RX 9 H 124 32 7,584

Logs: 30 Club Score: 605,078

Operators (non-PVRC):

W3IY/R: W3IY (ON1CFX)

W4RX: W3IY (ON1CFX) at W4RX QTH

CQWW 160 CW FINAL 05-Mar-03

Call QSOs Sts DX Score

Single Op High Power:

K4JA 1125 55 56 491,064
W4ZV 1011 56 60 401,940
W4MYA 889 57 48 311,248
N4AF 882 52 47 257,000
K3ZO 652 51 48 240,372
N4CW 860 55 30 188,870
K2UOP 868 53 28 173,664
N4XD 596 50 43 159,252
N3UM 659 50 31 140,454

N8II 699 52 26 134,472
K4CIA 505 54 37 131,586
WF3J 508 50 16 79,860
W4YE 445 50 20 77,980
K4ZW 357 47 22 65,274
N4MM 316 51 16 55,074
W2YE 271 46 11 37,677
K1KO 260 41 8 29,694
N3AM 238 41 10 29,070
W3AZ 227 45 5 26,600
K2AV 221 44 7 26,214
W3BP 259 34 3 24,375
K8OQL 164 44 8 21,632
NX9T 177 44 4 19,248
W4HJ 148 38 7 16,875
K2PLF 152 32 4 13,104
K4EC 159 35 # 12,880
N4ZR 109 36 7 12,169
N4TL 115 31 1 8,032

Single Op Low Power:

K7SV 783 53 25 146,952
WJ9B 641 52 14 95,370
W3EF 429 49 13 65,038
AI3M 503 48 9 63,783
K3SWZ 408 50 12 60,078
N2NFG 391 48 15 59,913
K4TX 380 42 10 45,760
WK4Y 320 47 5 37,232
WB4MSG 325 50 # 35,200
W3CP 231 50 # 28,150
K3DSP 256 36 1 21,053
N3FX 157 45 6 18,666
K4EU 212 32 0 15,008
W4RIM 121 30 2 8,512
WK3H 69 24 # 3,960
N4JED 61 26 0 3,328

Multi-Op (SOA unless below):

N4RV 1097 55 47 315,180
W2XL 830 55 42 232,315
K3DI 653 ## # 138,170
N3OC 633 54 24 120,588

W3HVQ 636 51 30 113,706
K3KO 531 50 27 108,339
W4DR 174 40 41 63,747
N3II 335 46 6 40,092
W2GG 192 44 # 21,032

Logs: 53 Club Score 5,046,852

Operators (non-PVRC):
K4JA: K4MA at K4JA QTH
N4RV: N4GG N4RV
W2XL: K4HA (W2XL at W2XL QTH)

ARRL CW DX #5 05-Mar-03
Deadline Mar 18 to [\[email protected\]](#)

Call Band Q's Mults Score
Single Op High Power:
K3ZO 3363 433 4,368,537
N4ZR 2561 372 2,858,076
K4EU 2087 380 2,379,180
NR3X 1573 328 1,547,832
WF3J 1404 321 1,348,200
N4CW 1400 311 1,306,200
N3UM 1384 300 1,245,600
W3HVQ 1308 301 1,181,124
N4AF 1527 240 1,090,000
W0YR 1325 269 1,066,854
W4YE 1026 310 954,180
KO7X 1085 284 922,716
W3AZ 686 245 503,475
NE3H 690 246 500,384
WB4MSG 724 231 498,267
K1KO 661 234 460,512
W4ZV 10 1324 114 452,808
K8OQL 573 254 436,626
W3DAD 661 211 418,413
W4ZYT 550 238 392,700
N8II 20 1213 107 388,573
W3GN 517 220 341,220
K4EC 427 194 248,514
N4MM 393 210 248,220
K4CIA 353 207 219,213
K2UOP 40 543 81 131,949

K4TX 40 501 78 117,234
N4TL 251 153 115,209
N3JT 177 101 53,328

Single Op Low Power:

N1WR 1057 285 903,735
K4FPF 770 290 669,900
W2CDO 669 262 525,834
K4UVT 591 239 423,747
W3CP 459 228 313,956
WK3H 380 185 210,900
K3DSP 326 161 156,975
N4JED 273 151 123,669
W4RIM 253 135 102,465
W4HM 10 308 87 80,388
W4IDX 40 215 67 43,215
W3CB 26 24 1,800

Single Op Assisted

K4MA 2327 463 3,232,203
W4NF 2211 431 2,858,823
N3AM 2007 409 2,460,135
W4RM 2080 392 2,442,552
W3GG 1262 351 1,327,833
K3KO 1001 4004 1,213,212
K3JT 648 263 510,483
K3WA 400 188 225,600
W4JVN 228 140 95,760
NX9T 110 104 34,008

Multi-Two

K4JA 5730 569 9,753,798
N4RV 4308 504 6,512,184
K3DI 2110 446 2,815,152

Multi-Multi

W4MYA 5359 564 9,006,516
NY4A 3742 481 5,379,504

Dxpeditons

VP5LP 7701 346 7,993,638
(Multi-two)

Logs: 57 Club Score70,827,109

Operators (non-PVRC):

K3DI: W4EE K3FT K3DI

K4EU at W3BP QTH

K4JA: K4JA K4FJ K9GY K9JY K7SV KE9I W3BP

N4RV: K2PLF WR3Z N4GG N4RV

NR3X: N4YDU

NY4A: N4AF W2CS K2AV at N4AF QTH

VP5LP: K3LP N3SB WX3B (N7DD)

W4MYA: K4GAU K4WMA KC8FS NW4V W4HZ W4MYA W4TNX WA4PGM

WK4Y WA8WV

CQWW 160 SSB #3 05-Mar-03

Deadline: March 31 to [\[email protected\]](#)

Call QSOs Sts DX Score

Single Op High Power:

W4MYA 1087 59 48 325,280

N3HBX 807 59 23 162,770

K4JA 462 53 25 106,175

NX9T 375 44 5 40,229

N3UM 333 45 8 39,750

K3ZO 279 44 1 27,765

K4YT 220 ## # 21,344

K1KO 136 28 5 10,989

K4MA 100 23 1 5,304

K2UOP 68 24 5 5,191

Single Op Low Power:

W3ARS 309 48 9 40,641

W3LL 329 43 3 30,487

K3DSP 182 35 1 14,184

WK4Y 178 30 2 12,544

KG4NEP 131 36 3 10,647

N4MM 80 36 4 8,240

KR4LO 70 28 2 4,920

WK3H 88 25 # 4,850

WB4MSG 74 26 0 4,082

N4JED 22 10 0 440

W4ZYT 15 9 0 297

Multi-Op (SOA unless below):

W4DR 200 43 37 70,800

K3DI 406 55 16 69,651

K8OQL 252 46 5 30,141

K3KO 200 52 7 27,612
N4GG 230 40 3 22,317
W2GG 142 37 0 11,507
K3IXD 89 32 3 7,455
SSB Logs: 28 Score: 1,115,612
CW Logs: 53 Score: 5,046,852
Totals: 81 6,162,464

ARRL PH DX #3 05-Mar-03
Deadline: April 1st to [\[email protected\]](#)

Call Bnd QSOs Mults Score

Single Op High Power:

K3ZO 2888 438 3,794,832
N4ZR 1168 327 1,145,808
NX9T 1028 299 922,116
KO7X 795 277 660,645
N4CW 625 292 545,748
N4MM 606 270 490,860
N3HBX 15 1168 93 325,035
N3JT 500 213 319,500
W4ZYT 383 183 210,267
K1KO 358 163 175,062
K3GV 266 142 113,316
K2UOP 40 165 64 31,680
W4RIM 116 78 27,144

Single Op Low Power:

N8II 1068 296 947,496
W3LL 626 275 513,975
K4FPF 550 206 339,900
W4IDX 423 184 233,496
N4JED 425 176 224,400
W3ARS ### ## 219,600
K4UVT 305 165 150,975
N4MO 261 128 100,224
N3FNE 256 126 96,768
W0YR 20 318 88 83,160
K4NYS 223 121 80,949
N3XL ### ## 43,992
K3YDX 137 82 33,702
WK3H 15 173 63 32,697

W3CP 10 135 44 17,820

Single Op Assisted

K8OQL 10 141 49 20,727
W4NF 1915 451 2,590,995
K3KO 727 344 750,264
K3DNE 946 257 728,595
W3HVQ 652 355 693,315
N4GG 725 283 615,525
K3IXD 549 233 383,052
NE3H 426 231 300,330
WX3B 377 175 197,400
W3UJ 192 90 51,840
N4TL 139 96 40,032

Multi-Single

W3LJ 750 300 675,000
K3DSP 631 209 395,637
W4WS 587 198 348,084

Multi-Two

K4JA 4841 594 8,574,984
K3DI 1420 412 1,753,884

Multi-Multi

W4MYA 4255 575 7,272,600

Dxpedititions

VK4UH 151 60 27,180

Ph Logs: 44 Score: 37,300,611
CW Logs: 57 Score: 70,827,109
Total: 101 108,127,720

Operators (non-PVRC):

K3DI: W3ICM W3OQ K3DI
K3DSP: K3DSP WR3Z
K4JA: K4JA AJ9C K4MA K9JY KE9I W3BP
KO7X: at KI7WX QTH
VK4UH: W3UL
W3LJ: W3IDT W3LJ (K3NCO)
W4MYA: K4WMA KF4QQY KC8FS N4DEN NW4V W4DR W4MYA W4PFM
W4TNX
WA4PGM WK4Y

W4WS: W2DZO KG4NEP (KG4CZU)